(b) and (c) No Life span is specified for aircraft. The operation of an aircraft may continue subject to its air-worthiness being certified by the DGCA.

Alliance between AI and International Airlines

1238. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India is contemplating to enter into an alliance with some international airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Air India had recently withdrawn some of their flights and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the alliance would help the Airline in restoration of the flights recently withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Air India already have Code-share/Joint Venture/Alliance Agreements with Air France, Air Mauritius, Austrian Airlines, Asiana Airlines, Bellview Airlines, Gulf Air, Kuwait Airways, Malaysian Airlines, Scandinavian Airlines, Singapore Airlines and Swiss Air.

(c) As part of its route-rationalisation, Air India have withdrawn services from Frankfurt, Rome and Manchester during the year 1999.

(d) Out of the three stations withdrawn from the network, Frankfurt is presently begin served by Air India through a connect Code-share with Air France over Paris.

Expansion of Bhopal Airport for Airbus service

†1239. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter of constructing an airfield at Bhopal to introduce an airbus service by Airports Authority of India is under consideration;

(b) if so, whether the proposal to allocate extra land for extension

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

has been sent by the Central Government to the State Government; and

(c) if so, by when the proposed airbus service will be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Infrastructure facilities are available for operation of Airbus-320 type of aircraft at Bhopal airport.

(c) Airline-operators are free to operate airbus service depending upon traffic potential, commercial viability and availability of aircraft.

Proposed New Marketing Policy by IA

†1240. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines propose to prepare a new marketing policy for the new millennium;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the airlines with whom a package agreement is proposed to be entered into and by when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has already embarked upon a dynamic marketing strategy which will take care of the market requirement in the new millenaium.

(c) No decision about the need for strategic alliances with other airlines has been taken so far.

Post Offices in Adivasi Districts of Maharashtra

1241. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices with a single man operation system in existence in Adivasi Districts of Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government propose to promote such post offices in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when this scheme would be in operation?

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